(b) whether there is a deficit in power generation vis-a-vis demand; if so, in what manner this crisis is proposed to be tackled;

(c) whether Government propose to tap alternative sources of power; and

(d) what is the total output of power expected to added due to the recent Indo-US bilateral agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) During the year 1994-95 the energy requirement in the country was 352260 million units against which the availability was 327281 million units.

In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability of power various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the country include expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No Government to Government agreement have been signed with the United States for America for setting up of power projects.

Differences between India and Nepal on power projects

3461. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government,s attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "India-Nepal differ on Hydel projects" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd March, 1995; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government there to indicating the steps underway to remove the stalemete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Secretary Level Meeting on Water Resources Cooperation, including development of hydel projects, for the mutual benefits of two countries was held between India and Nepal at Kathmandu during March 13-15, 1995. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation from both sides and a number of projects with a view to making progress on them were discussed. As a result of these discussions, it has been agreed to reactivate the eixsting three tier mechanism of discussions viz. technical level, official level and political level. After the Secretary level meeting, bilateral discussions were again held on 11th April, 1995 at both official level and Minister level during the vtsit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India.

External Commercial Borrowings for private power projects

3462. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has estimated a total External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) requirement of around $2.1 billion for private power projects in 1995-96, far exceeding the current informal limit of $1.5 billion for the power sector as a whole.

(b) the names of projects having ECB approvals and which of the fast track projects are not slated for ECB disbursals in 1995-96 and which are the main projects expected to receive these disbursement for 1995-96 (excluding fast track projects); and

(c) in what manner investments and guarantees form the domestic credit institutions and market borrowings of ECBs are proposed to be revised inview of the inadequate ECB ceiling for power meters?